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MONDAY
NOVEMBER 23, 1953

I had a rather quiet day at the office with a great deal of discussion about the interpretation to be placed upon the long speech read on behalf of Monsieur Bidault on Friday by Maurice Schumann. The part in which he speaks of the possible necessity for a constitutional change if the French are to vote for a popularly elected assembly in the EPC [redacted] is disturbing. This could be used later on as a delaying action. There is also speculation as to what the French Government really has in mind regarding American guarantees to continue the stationing of American troops in Europe. We have been in close communication with the British, the French, and headquarters in Washington for a considerable time regarding this point, which has assumed especial importance in the French, German, and other continental press since Secretary of Defense Wilson's and Admiral Radford's statements on the desirability of withdrawing American soldiers from foreign assignment as rapidly as possible. Bidault's speech was long, meaty, and on the whole [redacted] good.

Tonight Betsy and Bill Tyler and Phyllis and Tommy came to dinner with us. Betsy and Bill gave me a magnificent present of a 17th Century edition, bound in leather, of the Memoirs of Philippe de Commines. I was [redacted] touched by this.

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